

Message Text

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60

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/115 W

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R 271415 AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0536

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 0044

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0146

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : EAGR, ETRD, FR

SUBJECT : : COGNAC/POULTRY

REF : PARIS 22824

1. PUBLIC REACTION TO DATE IN THE COGNAC REGION TO USG'S
PUBLISHING NOTICE OF INTENT IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER TO INCREASE
THE DUTY ON COGNAC HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT. THE COGNAC GROWERS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE
ADOPTED A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE
RESIGNATION OF JACQUES CHIRAC'S GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE
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WHAT THE POLICY OF FRANCESS NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON THE COMPLEX TRADE ISSUES INVOLVING POULTRY AND COGNAC. THE LOCAL PROWERS AND PRODUCERS OF COGNAC HOPE THAT RAYMOND BARRE'S GOVERNMENT WILL BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN CHIRAC'S, AND ESPECIALLY MORE FLEXIBLE THAN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER CHRISTIAN BONNET. IN THEIR VIEW, CHIRAC'S GOVERNMENT FELT IT COULD NOT GIVE IN ON THE POULTRY ISSUE SINCE THIS WOULD FORCE THE GOF TO GIVE IN ON MANY SIMILAR TRADE ISSUES. CHRISTIAN BONNET'S POSITION IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING BEEN 'STUBBORN' AND THAT HE REFUSED TO DO ANYTHING TO 'UNPROTECT HIS POULTRY PEOPLE '.

2. THE LOCAL COGNAC GROWERS TELL ME THEY HAVE MADE CONTACT

WITH THE STR IN WASHINGTON AND THAT THEIR LAWYERS AND REPRESENTATIVES ARE DEVELOPING THE CASE THEY WILL PRESENT TO THE STR DURING THE HEARINGS. THEY WILL PRESS THE NEW GOF HARD TO SEE IF SOMETHING CAN BE DONE IN BRUSSELS WITHIN THE EC TO IMPROVE ACESS FOR US POULTRY.

3. THE ONLY ORGANIZED PUBLIC REACTION TO DATE TO THE USG NOTICE OF INTENT HAS BEEN A COMMUNIQUE DATED AUGUST 19 BY DR P.J. NOEL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF THE CHARENTE COGNAC GROWERS, ADDRESSED TO THE FORMER MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND FOREIGN TRADE. THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT. AFTER NINE YEARS DURING WHICH COGNAC SERVED AS A VIRTUAL HOSTAGE IN THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES IN WHAT IS COMMONLY CALLED THE ' CHICKEN WAR ', LABORIOUS NEGOTIATIONS RESULTED IN JULY 1974 IN RAISING THE THRESHOLD PRICE FROM 9 TO 17 DOLLARS A GALLON.

WE WERE GIVEN ASSURANCES BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE THAT THIS AFFAIR WOULD BE FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY. MINISTER SEGARD (THEN MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE) COMMITTED HIMSELF TO MAKE THIS QUESTION A SINE QUA NON IN ALL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HE WOULD CONDUCT WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

THE RECENT NEWS THAT THE ADVANTAGES PAINFULLY OBTAINED IN JULY 1974 HAVE BEEN PUT INTO QUESTION HAS PLUNGED THE CHARENTE COGNAC GROWERS INTO STUPOR AND INDIGNATION.

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AT A TIME WHEN A CERTAIN IMPROVEMENT IN SALES HAS GIVEN THE COGNAC GROWERS SOME HOPE IN THE MIDST OF THE CRISES WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN UNDERGOWING FOR TWO YEARS, THE LOSS OF THE AMERICAN MARKET WOULD HAVE SUCH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE REGION ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANES THAT IT IS MY OBLIGATION TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THEM. END TEXT.DJEREJIAN

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